

point out the most recent action in the Middle East demonstrates the precarious nature of the oil supply from that area. We know that almost instantaneously we can be placed into a position of fuel shortages again. From the standpoint not only of our agriculture, but of our national defense, it makes sense for us to develop an alternate supply of energy, principally grain alcohol, and we ought to do it here in the state. This gives the Nebraska farmer the opportunity to lead the way. I can tell you that I am willing to place my career on the line, such as it may be or has been. And I ask that you join me in the support of LB 1230. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the proposal.

PRESIDENT: Motion is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rod Johnson would move to return the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I won't take a lot of time, but I had several questions in my head. I'd like to ask Senator Schmit, just briefly, some questions if he would respond, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Johnson, I'd be glad to.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator Schmit, I'm not trying to harass your bill, in fact, I'm going to vote for it. But I guess I just need some clarification because several people have asked me this, and I want to be clear in my mind in case I am taken to task on this issue. The only thing I really was curious about is the provision dealing with the checkoffs which seems to have generated the most opposition by some...specifically some farm groups. But I guess as the bill reads, the first...is it the first year there is a cent and a half check-off, and then it is reduced to a cent, or is that the first 18 months?

SENATOR SCHMIT: We have an 18-month period, Senator Johnson, where we have a cent and a half check-off with a cent refund available if the farmer wants it. Then the entire program sunsets. At that period of time the program is over.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I see. So there is, so there is no reducing down to the penny.